

Figures 1 and 2. Furthermore, an underlying member 22 is formed integrally with the collar member at a segment of an edge thereof to extend downwardly beneath an inner surface of a garment, column 2, lines 18-25, and as shown in Figure 2. Additionally, the collar protector has an inner surface thereof with an adhesive coating 24 to maintain the protector onto the garment collar, columns 2, lines 44-47.

This reference has been carefully considered. What claims 1 to 3, inclusive, refer to is member 12, as disclosed in Applicant's specification which extends downwardly from the garment collar at the rear end thereof to be disposed beneath the inner surface of the garment, so as to overlie the back of the wearer. It is to be appreciated that during periods in which the user perspires heavily, the sweating is not confined to the area covered by the collar of the garment, but generally extends over other body surfaces, particularly that section of the shoulders disposed immediately below the collar. Member 12 is not tightly clamped between the back panel of the garment and the skin of the wearer, but is positioned such that it will normally contact the lower neck surface and be thus positioned to absorb moisture in addition to that absorbed by that portion of the protector which overlies the actual collar. A consideration of Figure 2 of Gaines shows that there is no portion which extends in this manner. The structure patented by Gaines relates to laminae which overlay the points formed at the tip of the member protecting the outer portion of the collar, and serve to retain the protector at those tips, so that the protector itself does not curl. This is an entirely different concept, and while admittedly useful, there is no showing or suggestion of accomplishing Applicant's result. Reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claims 1 to 3 is accordingly requested.

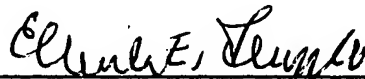
Claim Rejections, Section 103

With regard to claim 3, Examiner states that it would have been obvious that the collar protector of Gaines can be made of any desired material that was available at the time the device was made. In response, it is submitted that claim 3, as a dependent claim, is submitted as allowable along with claim 1. Further, it is submitted that although any desired material can be used, it is particularly important that an absorptive material be used so that the protector may reduce the moisture content of the actual collar.

The remainder of the prior art cited by Examiner has also been considered, but none of the same appeared to disclose structure which would correspond to suggest the claimed structure.

In the light of the above amendment, further and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,



Charles E. Temko
Attorney for Applicant

22 Marion Road
Westport, CT 06880
(203) 227-7368

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